



# TAYLOR



NEW PRESIDENT, NEW  
PARADIGM, SAME MISSION,  
SAME LORD.

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## BEHIND THE COVER

"I could be delusional, but I have not been overwhelmed by any of this. We have prayed so much about this career change. When you really feel like you are in the center of the Lord's will, it is a sobering thing. We are depending on the Lord. We know we have weaknesses but we also know the Lord does not." **Lowell Haines '75**

For our cover photo, we wanted an image that somehow captured the complexity of that thought - that we, on our own, can do nothing. As Lowell Haines returns to Taylor University to begin his presidency, he does so in profound reliance upon God and His keeping, wisdom and strength. May we each call upon the Lord for all He calls us to do.





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Founded in 1846, Taylor University is one of America's oldest Christian liberal arts colleges. Over 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students from 42 states and 30 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 64 fields of study are available. For the ninth year in a row, Taylor University is the number one Midwest University in the category Best Regional Colleges in the 2016 *US News & World Report* survey, *America's Best Colleges*.

The mission of Taylor University is to develop servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ's redemptive love and truth to a world in need.



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## COMING AND GOING

Life at Taylor University is, in many ways, an unending chain of hellos and goodbyes. When we each arrived for the first time on campus, there were so many new people - people who, like us, were starting a new journey into an unknown, exciting phase of life in the cornfields of Indiana. From Summer Orientation and Welcome Weekend to the special times of fellowship and learning, we grow in close communion with each other. Sometimes there are bumps in the road that lead to forgiveness and reconciliation so that fellowship can be restored. Those, I think, are some of the best relationships.

But with the coming of each spring there are also the inevitable goodbyes. Most of those leaving are students whom we have grown to know and love. But there are also beloved faculty and staff who have reached the end of their Taylor pilgrimage - people with whom we have shared enduring friendships for many years. Several years ago as then-outgoing President David Gyertson bid his farewells to the Taylor community, he mentioned that Taylor had a number of iconic faculty members who would be retiring in the soon-coming years. I thought

about those words as we prepared this issue of *Taylor*. Beulah Baker, Ken Constantine, Connie (Hall '74) Lightfoot, Joe Lund, Jessica Rousselow-Winquist, Alan Winquist, Hank Voss, and Gene and Marylou (Napolitano '68) Habecker '68 - all of them concluded successful, distinguished service to Taylor University this year. These beloved members of our community showed us the love of Christ and left their own indelible mark on the Taylor community.

Yet God, in His faithfulness, also brought to us our new President and First Lady, Lowell and Sherry (Korfmacher '76) Haines '75. The Haineses have continued to be part of the Taylor community since they graduated, through work on campus and eventually service on the Taylor Board of Trustees.

To the Haineses, we offer our warmest greetings. And to those beloved members who are leaving our midst, you will always be in our hearts.



James R. Garringer H'15  
Editor



# A FITTING TRIBUTE

Those who knew and loved LaRita Boren H'94 remembered her as a loving, godly and hospitable woman who was blessed with a great sense of humor. They also agreed that although she might have been a little embarrassed at the thought of the second-largest building project in Taylor University's history being named in her honor, the tribute was eminently fitting.


The large crowd that gathered for the dedication of the \$20 million LaRita Boren Campus Center on April 30 was treated to a series of emotional tributes that painted a clearer picture of the longtime Taylor Board of Trustees member and friend who died after a brief illness in 2011.

"Those of you who knew her, know that she loved the students and the faculty and the staff of this place like no other," said then-President Eugene B. Habecker '68. "She did more for this university over the years than many of you know. Her heart was that this Taylor community would be a place where people would be a community of intentionality - people intentional about each other, their faith, and their commitment to meeting the needs of the world."

"How do you condense who your mother was down to a five-minute speech?" Boren's son Lael asked the crowd. "Mom always made

Christ the center of her life and her family's life. She wanted others to know the love of Jesus, and showed that love to everyone all the time. I know our mother was a woman of prayer, sacrifice and huge faith.

"Mom had a passion for Taylor University and its students," he added. "She wanted the students going here to have the best experience a Christian college had to offer. This building was a dream for her. For many years, I had overheard her talking about Taylor needing to be able to give the students a place they could just hang out, eat good food, worship God, and study together - to be a community and a family together away from their own families. My only disappointment is that she could not be here to enjoy it with all of us."

Darnell Bain '87 was one of more than 100 Bahamian students who have been able to attend Taylor through the efforts of Boren and her husband Leland. "They had a vision. That vision was to see Bahamians educated and become change agents in the Bahamas and the world," she said. "Bahamian Taylor graduates are now standing tall in the Bahamas and the world in ministry, education, law, science, art, business and medicine, to name a few. Today is LaRita Boren's day, and it is my honor to be a part of this historic occasion." 



LaRita Boren's husband Leland addresses the gathering for the dedication of the LaRita Boren Campus Center.





## TRANSFORMATIONAL STORYTELLING HONORED

Hanson Reed (left) shoots video of a glassmaker during production of the Crystal Pillar Award winning film *The Glassmakers: Exploring an Indiana Tradition*.

Blinded by pain, Brad Hurtig braved a look at his hands. Working the late shift in a factory in his hometown of Sherwood in northwest Ohio, Hurtig had been feeding sheet metal into a 500 ton power press. He had been well aware of the dangers, but he had always been careful – at least, until the moment he noticed a sheet he had just fed into the press was crooked. Without pausing, he reached out to straighten it. That was when his life changed.

Hurtig had been a standout high school football player, setting a school record for tackles. Now, he was a double amputee – his left hand and half of his right arm were lost in the accident. As he recovered in the hospital, football seemed like nothing more than a memory. But Hurtig returned to the football field that fall, and

his triumphant story is the subject of an award-winning documentary created by Taylor University students, *When the Game Changes: A Playbook for Perseverance*. *When the Game Changes* was one of two Taylor student films to receive Crystal Pillar Awards from the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences, Lower Great Lakes Chapter, the regional Emmy Award organization, earlier this summer.


Also winning in the Student/Long Form category was the Taylor documentary *The Glassmakers: Exploring an Indiana Tradition*. The

*Glassmakers* is a study of the history of glassmaking in the State of Indiana – an industry that began during the gas boom of the 1880s. The films were made for a documentary film class taught by Kathy Bruner, Assistant Professor of Film and Media Production.

“The fact that we had to actually make a documentary for the class was an amazing learning experience. I had to step out of my comfort zone, and I am really happy that we did it that way. That is the way Kathy has the class structured,” said Elyce Horb ’17, who served as producer for *The Glassmakers*. “I don’t

think there is any other way I would have learned about documentary filmmaking so well.”

“Getting an opportunity to work on this documentary has been incredibly transformational for me,” said Abbie Brewer ’16, one of the students who created *When the Game Changes*. “We knew that Brad’s story was important and after getting to know him and following him around for a while, we really wanted to make sure that we told his story well.”

“I was very honored and humbled for them to want to tell my story,” said Hurtig, who is now a youth pastor and speaker. “I don’t think of myself as having a great story, but they told it in a way that was accurate, and in a way that was compelling and interesting.” 





Marylou Habecker speaks to the crowd in the KSAC during her portion of the Commencement address in May.

# Completing the pilgrimage

The Habeckers bid the Taylor community farewell

In the end, Taylor's outgoing presidential couple Marylou (Napolitano '68) and Eugene B. Habecker '68 drew from their own life experiences to reassure the Class of 2016 of God's continued faithfulness and call upon them, in turn, to be faithful in all things, great and small.

Gene and Marylou, as they were known across the campus, concluded a lingering series of warm farewells to the Taylor community on May 21 when they served as the featured speakers at Commencement exercises in the Kesler Student Activities Center. Also included in the day's events were presentations of honorary doctorates to Steve Amerson '76

and the family of late Taylor Board Chairman Wellington Chiu '74. Amerson was honored for his long and successful vocal career that has spanned numerous recordings, motion pictures, television shows and commercial advertisements. Chiu, a longtime member of Taylor's Board of Trustees, had begun his Board chairmanship earlier this year, but died after a sudden illness in April.

"God is going to take us step by step. You got to this point by going step by step. You didn't do it all at once, you lived moment by moment, class by class, person by person," Marylou Habecker told the crowd. "Some of you are leaving with a plan. God has maybe revealed a little more of the

path for you. I've talked to several of you, and Gene and I are included in this - the plan isn't as clear. Some of you might feel like you are leaving empty-handed, you don't know what is next. You are going, but not knowing. But all you have to do is keep walking, like you've done these four years - step by step, breath by breath. You are not empty-handed - you are holding onto the strongest hand of all - the hand of God."

"Too often, we look for the big and showy - what impresses in the culture of the world," said Gene Habecker. "God measures our faithfulness in the smaller details ... Never overlook the unimpressive or the temporary job or any person as unworthy of your time. Rather,

look at this as an opportunity to demonstrate responsible and faithful stewardship in your life, even in ministry - faithfulness in everything is His desire for us."


The outgoing President concluded with his own personal reflection. "Marylou and I have counted it a privilege to be at Taylor. It has been an undeserved blessing to have served all of you these past 11 years, and an incredible joy," he said. "Now, go, all of you, and serve the One called Jesus - Jesus of Nazareth. The Name above all other names, the Name before which every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." **T**





# #TAYLORU

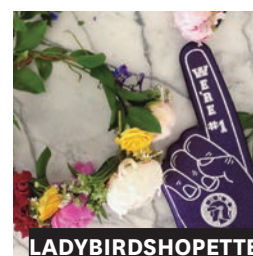
SOCIAL


ONE OF SOCIAL MEDIA'S BEST QUALITIES IS ITS ABILITY TO SHARE INSTANTANEOUS INFORMATION WITH FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES VIA TWITTER, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM OR VARIOUS OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA. HERE ARE A FEW TWEETS AND INSTAGRAM PHOTOS THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED DURING THE PAST MONTHS.

 **@aud\_estelle** Graduation is simultaneously the happiest and saddest thing. Can't we stay just one more week? #TaylorU

 **@elyse\_\_\_\_\_** The night patrol campus policeman in Rupp just high-fived me goodnight. Honestly a great ending to this day #TaylorU

 **@KatieTupper15** Just saw a guy brushing his teeth while riding his bike. #college #TaylorU



 **@JuliaCamara6** Amazing testimony from Whitney today. May God use all of us as mightily as he's used her. #TaylorU #tuchapel



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# ANNUAL FACULTY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Each year, three outstanding members of Taylor University's faculty are honored for excellence and innovation in classroom teaching, life-changing mentoring of students, outstanding contributions to the larger Taylor community, and a demonstrated personal faith in Christ. Congratulations to Drs. Diane Dungan, Carol Sisson and Erik Hayes – the honorees for the 2015-2016 year!



**DR. DIANE DUNGAN**  
2016 DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR  
AWARD

Dungan, who teaches a wide range of psychology courses, joined the Taylor faculty in 2000. She holds a degree in Psychology and English from Indiana University, and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Texas Tech University.

"I love working here at Taylor because I get to work with such amazing colleagues and students," Dungan said. "Watching my students grow and develop in their knowledge of psychology and encouraging students in their professional and personal development is tremendously rewarding to me."

Presented by the Taylor University Alumni Council, the Distinguished Professor Award honors faculty members with at least 10 years' service who are recognized for classroom teaching excellence, expertise in their field, positive influence on students, and respect of their peers.



**DR. CAROL (MEIER '88) SISSON**  
2016 DR. JOE BURNWORTH  
TEACHING AWARD

In naming Dr. Carol Sisson the recipient of this year's Burnworth Award, Taylor officials recognized her as a catalyst for innovation who uses her teaching gifts in ways that foster the holistic growth and development of students. Sisson, who holds Ed.D., Ed.S., and M.A. degrees from Ball State University, was also honored for her committee memberships that include the Strategic Institutional Review Committee of the University Planning Council, Faculty Council, Presidential Search Interview and Selection Team, and Strategic Directions 2026 Committee.

Dr. Joe Burnworth served Taylor University's Education Department with distinction for 31 years, and the Burnworth Award was established to recognize outstanding faculty, in their first five years of teaching at Taylor, who exhibit great promise and have made noteworthy contributions to the academic and community life of the institution.



**DR. ERIC HAYES**  
2016 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND  
CAMPUS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Since joining Taylor's faculty in 1998, Dr. Erik Hayes, the recipient of this year's Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award, has distinguished himself as a tough but fair professor who prepares his students for graduate studies and beyond. Since 2010, Hayes has applied for and been awarded more than \$100,000 in research, equipment or program development grants, and guided his students through collaborative projects with neighboring Ball State University.

Hayes also pioneered an employee fitness program that has served more than 350 Taylor faculty and staff members and members of the extended Upland community while providing training experiences for over 200 Exercise Science majors.

He holds degrees from Asbury College, Indiana University and Ball State University.





Professor of Psychology Diane Dungan is the Distinguished Professor for 2015-2016.





From left, Jane Hawks and Katie DeHaan led the Trojans to the program's first conference title in 30 years as well as indoor and outdoor national meet appearances.



# FASTER, HIGHER, BETTER

RUNNING FASTER, JUMPING HIGHER—JANE HAWKS '16 AND KATIE DEHAAN '16 HAVE BEEN DOING THAT FOR EIGHT YEARS. DURING HIGH SCHOOL, THE TWO ACHIEVED STATEWIDE RANKINGS. AND DURING THEIR FOUR YEARS AT TAYLOR UNIVERSITY, THE TWO LED TAYLOR'S TRACK TEAM TO THE TOP OF THE CROSSROADS LEAGUE AND NATIONAL RANKINGS.

But after more than 100 meets, 800 practices, and untold thousands of footsteps run in both competition and practice, that chapter of their lives came to a close when the two participated in their final collegiate meet and graduated in May.

Hawks and DeHaan started running track together in 2008 as freshmen at Rockford High School in Rockford, Mich. During their record-setting high school careers, they enjoyed many successes, both individually and as a team. DeHaan, who participated in pole vault, 400, 4x400, and 4x200, finished among the state's elite in all four events her senior year. Hawks, who participated in the 4x800, also placed in state her senior year.

Their achievements continued after they arrived at Taylor. They were freshman members of the Taylor women's track team that won conference for the first time in over 30 years, and went on to appearances at indoor nationals their freshman,

sophomore, and senior years, as well as outdoor nationals their freshman year.

DeHaan and Hawks grew close in their eight years together both on the track and in the classroom. They studied education at Taylor and returned to Michigan after graduation. Apart from classes and meets, a lot of bonding took place for them - and the entire team - through the track team's Spring Break trips.


"She's definitely one of the people on the team that I feel closest with because of that 8-year history," DeHaan said about Hawks. "This year, especially, I've had a lot of beneficial conversations with Jane about what it looks like to be seniors and leaders on the team, and how to use the position well."

As their senior season came to an end, DeHaan and Hawks agreed it was hard to believe their long careers in the sport were actually coming to a close.

"One of the things I'll miss the most is the feeling of being on a team," Hawks said.

"I've just tried to think about the things I love about track and how to do it for the rest of my life," DeHaan said. "I'll always need cardio, and track has taught me that I can push myself to new limits. I hope that because of these eight years I'll be able to push myself for the rest of my life."

Quinn White '87 said Hawks and DeHaan were part of a great senior leadership core of the team. "Jane went to every national meet during her college career," he said. "She had an opportunity to go to 12 meets for indoor and outdoor track and for cross country, and she went to all 12.

"Katie was a hard worker," he added. "I was her professor, and I saw her two different ways. She went through hardships during college and she persevered. She's got a lot of heart, and she is the type of athlete we want to come to Taylor." 



# HEAD, HEART, AND HANDS

## Ways of Knowing David Neuhouser

BY DR. JOSEPH RICKE

In the summer  
of 1997, America's  
hippest  
Christian rock  
festival, the  
Cornerstone  
Festival, took  
place on farm  
country outside  
of Bushnell,  
Illinois.

Cornerstone attracted 20,000 attendees, mostly under 30, and mostly there to hear non-mainstream Christian rock musicians. Among the blue-haired emos, pierced punks, tattooed goths, bleached-out skasters, and screaming hardcore enthusiasts was a soft-spoken, semi-retired 64-year-old math professor from Taylor University, Dr. David Neuhouser. He was not, as it turns out, sharing the main stage with the Orange County Supertones. Rather, he was teaching seminars on a subject that most people would think out of place in such a space: the literary works of a 19th Century preacher and writer, George MacDonald. I guess Dave Neuhouser thought it made perfect sense.

A 15-year-old boy wrote back from the festival: "Dear Mom, We are a little wet but not dampened in spirit. This is fun, and I'm learning a lot at the seminars. Love, Stephen." Stephen's father noted that much of that learning was from the seminars on C. S. Lewis and George MacDonald taught by his "new friend," David Neuhouser. Apparently, dad was sufficiently impressed since he promptly registered for the very first Lewis and Friends Colloquium at Taylor University. Because of the

relationship he developed with Dave, he hasn't missed one since. In fact, this June, he joined over 130 attendees who came to Taylor to participate in the colloquium and to honor the memory of its founder.

Dave Neuhouser was a man of courage and a certain feisty attitude; a person of integrity who unapologetically, if quietly, lived out his beliefs. Obviously, one of those beliefs is that the writings of C. S. Lewis and George MacDonald have great value for our students, for the scholarly community, and for the wider world - including the rowdy 20,000 folks at Cornerstone that summer.

When he first started teaching C. S. Lewis classes as part of the Honors Program at Taylor, I'm sure that Dave never envisioned being at Cornerstone that year. Perhaps even less likely might have been his warm friendship with Dr. Ed Brown of Indianapolis and the assistance of a gracious donor that led to Taylor's acquisition of a collection of Lewis' first editions and manuscripts. The resulting Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends has benefited our students and faculty, as well as the greater scholarly community for nearly 20 years.



## By profession, Dave Neuhouser was a math professor, and a very good one at that. His vocation, though, was something more.

By profession, Dave Neuhouser was a math professor, and a very good one at that. His vocation, though, was something more. He defined his vocation as a life lived to love God and point others toward that love. He excelled in his field of mathematics, and, along the way, became an expert on the writers he loved – especially C. S. Lewis and George MacDonald. More importantly, Dave knew who he was and what he believed. To paraphrase the old gospel hymn, he knew *Whom* he had believed. He was known as welcoming and gracious, but his gentleness and peacemaking were never passive. It would be wrong to imagine that his friendliness or hospitality were simply “natural” and therefore easy. In reality, Dave believed that peace, friendship, and community had great

value and, therefore, were worth great effort. He cared for others, he reached out across differences, and he never flaunted his own agenda. Still, he was true to his sense of what was right, even if he expressed that more by gentle actions than loud words.

Dave was deeply committed to racial reconciliation. He started a faculty study group on the topic, but wanted to do more. So in 1987, he put his beliefs into action by spending his sabbatical teaching at historically black institution, Tougaloo College in Mississippi. Perhaps part of his commitment to racial harmony was linked to his devotion to the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. In fact, Dave dressed as Lincoln for presentations for children in schools and libraries who were thrilled by Dave’s

spitting image of our 16th President, stovepipe hat, serious beard, lanky frame, solemn expression, and a verbatim memorized performance of *The Gettysburg Address*. His good friend, historian Dr. William Ringenberg ’61, claims that Dave “grew a good beard for February, the peak Lincoln season,” and relied upon his deep knowledge of Lincoln’s biography and ideas to impersonate Honest Abe. I’m only sorry he never did the same with George MacDonald. Now that would have been a beard to remember.

People often wonder how a math professor like Dave got involved with an artsy bunch of people like Lewis and MacDonald scholars. As is evidenced by his many essays and also by the testimony of those who studied under him in his Ways of Knowing classes (and others), it really wasn’t that strange to him. In fact, it seemed perfectly logical. When one friend asked him how it was that he actually decided to teach math instead of literature, given his great love of literature and the arts, Dave responded, we assume with that famous twinkle in his eye, “Well, you English teachers have too many papers to grade, and I wanted time to read.” Seriously, the fact is that he wrote eloquently and often about the “beauty” of

math and science and the ways that it connected with literature and poetry, especially in the works of his favorite authors. Very few have done that so well and so sensitively.

Like all professors, Dave Neuhouser wore many hats and took on many responsibilities. Clearly, he lived out his vocation to love God and neighbor by being a wise and caring mentor. He chose to do so; he intentionally practiced encouragement and community. This summer, for the tenth time since that Cornerstone Festival of 1997, a group of friends, colleagues, fellow scholars, and students gathered to enjoy the results of his dedicated, loving, faithful, and most interesting life. [T](#)

Dr. Joseph Ricke serves as Professor of English, Director for the Center of the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends, and is the co-editor, with Lisa (Bowen ’98) Ritchie, of the new book, *Exploring the Eternal Goodness: Selected Writings of David L. Neuhouser*, which includes tributes from former students, colleagues, scholars, and friends.









NEW PRESIDENT, NEW PARADIGM,  
SAME MISSION, SAME LORD.



**As it is with all of us, Lowell Haines '75 has many identities.** He is a Christ follower, husband, father, lawyer, and friend. But there is one other distinct aspect of his personality that becomes obvious the moment you walk into his home. The man loves music. As he picks up one of his Martin guitars, it is like he is reuniting with an old friend. The tones of this finely crafted instrument are full and rich, and the fingers of his left hand move effortlessly along the frets as his right hand strums a familiar tune. Whether the day was easy or hard, the music coming from his guitar is soothing, reassuring and comforting. Lowell has spent hours upon hours in the quiet of his den, playing this guitar, caressing its strings, and singing the words of a song that perhaps he once sang at a coffee house, concert venue, church, or even the stage of the Rediger Chapel/Auditorium.

Music has been a constant in his life that dates back to his first guitar - it was a gift from his missionary parents as the family traveled to South Korea. The love of music continued through his college years at Taylor University when he formed several bands and made the first of lifelong friendships with classmates and fellow musicians. His songs ran the gamut from love songs and country ballads, filled with love, faith and memories, to folk-rock compositions typical of the times. They helped him express hope and gave him solace in the face of heartache. And the music has also allowed him to create a wonderful camaraderie with friends and family.

"My guitar has been a great friend over the years. Now I am fortunate to have a number of them - and I love every single one of them," Lowell says. "They are great therapy. I'm not a virtuoso, but I just love to play. The guitars are all over my house. There is always a guitar in easy reach. There will probably be a guitar in my office - it's a great stress reliever."

Of course, the office Lowell Haines refers to is the President's Office located in Taylor University's historic Helena Memorial Hall. Lowell officially took office June 1, filling the office and position vacated by Gene Habecker '68 and held previously by his mentors and legendary Taylor administrators, Jay Kesler '58 and Milo Rediger '38.

"I could be delusional, but I have not been overwhelmed by any of this," he says. "We have prayed so much about this career change. When

you really feel like you are in the center of the Lord's will, it is a sobering thing. We are depending on the Lord. We know we have weaknesses but we also know the Lord does not."

Humanly speaking, one might be hard pressed to explain why Lowell and his wife Sherry (Korfmacher '76) would make this move at this time. For the past quarter century, he was a respected lawyer at one of the nation's largest and most prestigious law firms, Faegre Baker Daniels. And for 35 years, she has similarly enjoyed a satisfying career as a high school art teacher. But the call of God sometimes confounds human reasoning.







Case in point: 30 years ago, the Haineses seemed to have life squared away in Upland, where he, after starting out working for Taylor's facilities services during the summertime, had risen to the position of Vice President for Student Development. Yet, God's call was to law school and a vocation as an attorney. From that platform, he was able to serve Taylor University as a member of the Board of Trustees. It wasn't until the search for a new president at Taylor began that God began opening one door after another and leading the Haineses to leave the law firm and teaching to return to the place where it all began.

"It's very humbling, and sometimes Sherry and I look at each other and say, 'Does the Lord know what He is doing here?' But we also have a great sense of confidence that this is exactly where we are supposed to be," Lowell says.

"I feel like an adult child coming home," Sherry admits. "We had our daughter Hannah (a 2011 alumna), we went to law school, I've had a career teaching, and so many things have happened since we left Taylor, so it is a little different from when we were students, but it's very comfortable. If we were at another school where I didn't know the school, know the community, where I had to get used to the mission

of the school, I would be having a harder time, but I love Taylor, and I think I'm going to jump right back into that."

The career arc of Lowell's life seems to point to this moment. From the early days of his work at Taylor to the bulk of his service at Faegre Baker Daniels, where he worked with Christian colleges across the country, he participated in the inner workings of higher education and served the needs of nonprofits and small and large Christian and secular colleges and universities, helping them navigate the fjords and rapids of civil law and changing societal norms - changes, in fact, that seem to have escalated in the past 15 years.

"I have a keen awareness of the trials and tribulations that lie ahead for Christian higher education," Lowell says. "A lot of people might run to the hills and try to get away from being the president of a Christian college. I look at it very differently, and Sherry does too. As we have gone through this journey and are now contemplating the next 10 years working for the alma mater that we love, we go into it with a great sense of confidence that the Lord would not have brought us to this position if He didn't have great plans for us and great plans for Taylor.

"And so we are resting - not comfortably, because I don't think the Lord wants us to be comfortable in life," Lowell continues. "I think what He wants us to be is in the center of His will, and sometimes that doesn't involve comfort. Sometimes Sherry has had doubts, sometimes I have had doubts, but we arrived at a place where we felt this was exactly what God has been preparing us for throughout our lives. Sherry and I are a great team. She's encouraging to me when I need to be encouraged and I hope I'm encouraging to her."

As Sherry reflects on her role as Taylor's newest First Lady, she recognizes the gravity of the commitment she and her husband have made. At the same time, she will not allow herself to worry. "Well, I'll just be me. One of my big things is going to be is to support Lowell, because he's got the big job," she says. "Having been an art teacher for so long, I am obviously interested in the arts and cultural experiences. So I will probably work at bringing not just visual arts, but concerts and whatever I can to bring more cultural experiences to the campus. Having been a high school teacher, I like being in the mix with students, so I would love to, since Lowell will be busy, go on some mission trips and get to know the students that way.





“I’m used to being with my kids and being right there and working with them. I see myself doing that at Taylor,” Sherry continues. “And having been a teacher for so long, I have that perspective of someone who has been in the classroom, so I really want to be a friend and support to the students. I’ve loved teaching and I will always be a teacher, but the formal part of that is probably over. But I love being with students, so that will definitely be a priority.”


Reflecting on the long line of presidents that have preceded him

over Taylor’s 170-year history could be intimidating, and yet, it is not fear Lowell senses, but purpose and hope. “It is humbling to be considered among that group of people,” he admits. “Milo Rediger was an amazing man in Taylor’s history, and to be put in the same sentence with him is really sobering to me. As you get closer and closer to a position like this, the mountains in front of you seem to get bigger and bigger. You are tempted to say, ‘Oh my goodness. What have I gotten myself into here?’ and you are tempted to run in the other direction. I have not had that reaction at all. What I have

had is a real sense that I am right in the crosshairs of God’s will for my life. Where else do you want to be except right where the Lord wants you to be?

“This is a great institution and Gene and Marylou have had a phenomenal decade. All of those people who came before us – God used them. As an institution, Taylor University is not rich, but we are richly blessed. God worked through those people to create this amazing place we have the privilege to serve. Sherry and I join that – confident that this is where we are supposed

to be, but also confident that God is going to take our seemingly weak talents and abilities and He’s going to make them sufficient.

“We are looking forward to it,” Lowell adds. “And most importantly, we are looking forward to joining arm-in-arm with the people we love of Taylor University, and taking this wonderful organization and advancing it for God’s purposes.” 



# Forever grateful

**Alan Winquist** had visited Taylor University, but that was in the early 1960s when he was a student at Wheaton College. He had been, well, less than impressed. And yet, in 1974 he decided to accept Taylor's offer to join its history faculty – for five years. **Beulah Baker** brought an innate desire to try new things when she joined Taylor's faculty, and it guided not only her teaching career, but also numerous study abroad trips. **Hank Voss** admits that he, at least for a moment, second guessed his decision to move from the Silicon Valley to Upland, Indiana, but he did so because he saw the critical importance of science on a Christian campus. **Connie (Hall '74) Lightfoot** was a working mother with three small children who balanced her family and career. **Ken Constantine**'s love and knowledge of mathematics was so broad that his teaching at Taylor and service to the broader mathematical community earned awards. **Joe Lund**'s desire for excellence fueled not only his teaching, but also his coaching. And **Jessica Rousselow-Winquist**'s impact on students was realized in both her tough, unflinching standards, and also through the artistry of dozens of plays she directed.

Milo Rediger '38 used to say he envisioned Taylor as being a place where Christ followers could be the persons God created them to be. Through the lives of each of these faculty members, generations of Taylor University students have been mentored, challenged, shaped and blessed – aided on their way to be the men and women Christ called them to be. To each of these retiring faculty members, we offer our profound gratitude.





42

YEARS

## DR. ALAN WINQUIST

**Professor of History**

Dr. Alan Winquist was faced with a tough decision. He needed a job, and Taylor University had offered him a job, but it meant leaving city life in Manhattan, New York, for the cornfields of Indiana. As he struggled to decide, a friend counseled him that the opportunity sounded like a very good fit. He figured he would try it for five years. That was 42 years ago.

Winquist's long, successful career at Taylor came to a conclusion this spring. Over the years, he has shared his natural curiosity with generations of Taylor students as he taught a wide array of classes ranging from European history to the histories of Africa and Asia. He also led a number of overseas study trips.

"I really don't think you can teach a history course without actually going to the area and seeing where Napoleon lived, and where Martin Luther preached and where the Reformation in Germany began," he said. "Maybe I'm doing too much of it, but I always like to pepper my course with incidents that have happened in my life that would make it more interesting for our students."

Winquist also co-authored several books whose titles include *God's Ordinary People; No Ordinary Heritage*, and *Coach Odle's Full Court Press* with his colleague and, as it turned out, his future wife, Dr. Jessica Rousselow.

"Apparently, we were quite an item," he said with a laugh. "We went to a lot of plays together and a lot of concerts together, and then in the summer, we went off in our separate ways. She traveled here and I traveled there. Eventually, we are writing books together and from there you know the rest of the story."

Winquist takes with him fond memories of faculty colleagues and generations of students. "I keep telling people I haven't been mad at anyone, including students, in 42 years," he said. "I could not think of a more pleasant experience than to be involved in teaching at the university level."



13

YEARS



## DR. KEN CONSTANTINE

### Professor of Mathematics

While he appreciates the logic, language and flow present in the field of mathematics, Dr. Ken Constantine viewed his chosen field in a bit more pragmatic manner. "I would think about things like that on the side, but my personality was more about keeping things running and, 'What do I need to do next?' and not be as reflective as I ought to be," he said.

"There are those who feel mathematics is solely a gift from God and others who feel it's a creation of man," he added. "I'm a bit toward the latter, but we are created by God, and in that way, mathematics is evidence of God's creativity."

Constantine retired from Taylor this year after 13 years on the mathematics faculty. He taught an expansive range of classes from algebra,

finite math, and advanced calculus, to geometry, Bayesian methods and linear statistical models.

But it was the one-on-one interactions with his faculty colleagues that left, perhaps, the greatest impression on him. "I met and interacted with David Neuhouser a lot," Constantine said. "His personal examples of integrity and ambition, in a certain Mennonite sort of way, were an inspiration to my wife (Laura) and me. It's not just the current faculty who are so strong and collegial, but David, who continued to be a strong faculty asset."

Constantine received numerous awards for teaching excellence, highlighted last year by the 2015 Indiana Section Award for Distinguished

College or University Teaching of Mathematics. The award recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of section members who have been identified as extraordinary teachers in the mathematical sciences and whose teaching effectiveness has had influence beyond their own institutions.

"The Department of Mathematics faculty and students are wonderful," he said. "Our students are capable and hardworking - I cannot imagine one quality without the other. With the faculty, I never worked with a better group of people. They are extremely well qualified in terms of doing terrific work. What struck me was how collegial the group was, and it was very hard to leave."



A portrait of Dr. Hank Voss, a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a brown jacket over a striped shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

22

YEARS

## DR. HANK VOSS

**Professor of Physics and Engineering**

In 1994, Dr. Hank Voss left his job as a research scientist at Lockheed Research in Palo Alto, Calif., for Taylor University because he believed science could flourish at a Christian college like Taylor. Still, he admits that when he and his family arrived in Upland, he could not help but wonder, “Are we crazy or not?”

“I wondered why Christian schools were not leading in the nation in the sciences, because we should be,” Voss said. “We did earlier in the Renaissance times and at the turn of the century – it seemed like a Christian school would be the ideal place for that to happen.”

He appears to have been right. Utilizing a one-on-one mentoring approach, Voss played a critical role in the expansion of Taylor’s engineering

program that grew from just 10 students in the early 1990s to more than 50 students today. Under Voss’ guidance, Taylor students created an innovative high-altitude balloon research program, studied thunderstorms in space, dug wells in search of water and oil, manufactured instruments for NASA satellites, built a solar car, retrofitted a linear accelerator from medical to classroom applications, and designed and built small satellites (nanosats) for NASA and the United States Air Force. They even contributed to the design of Taylor’s \$42 million Euler Science Complex.

“It was especially interesting because we never did a large architectural project before the President said, ‘Go for it,’” Voss remembered. “We

ordered the most sophisticated architectural software. We lived in the building and we knew what we wanted. We had advantages over an architect. We knew we needed energy efficiency and to be able to keep the cost down.

“We were able to get the design and faculty interest and buy-in,” he added. “Our students just really rose to the level we needed them to go to – it was a team effort.”

To Voss, there has never been a dichotomy between belief in the Bible and the pursuit of scientific discovery and study. “Christians should take leadership in science ethics. If Christians don’t take the lead in these issues, who will?” Voss said. “True education must contain knowledge of God.”





19

YEARS

## DR. CONNIE LIGHTFOOT

Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Education and Business

Dr. Connie (Hall '74) Lightfoot still smiles when she thinks about the day her mentor-turned-colleague, the legendary Dr. Elmer Nussbaum '49, took her by the shoulders and made her address him by his first name - Elmer. Lightfoot was the mother of three young children when she joined the Taylor faculty in 1981, altering the relationships with Nussbaum and other former professors like Paul Harms and Bob Wolfe '58 from professor to colleague.

"Jere Truex '68 was the one who insisted I apply for the position, and I just couldn't imagine it on so many levels," she remembered. "I couldn't imagine being a faculty member. I couldn't

imagine being a faculty member at Taylor. I couldn't imagine being a faculty member at Taylor with three little girls, because I had chosen largely to be home up until that point. This was something God was doing in me to say, 'It's OK to have a career and a family,' and that was pretty earth-shaking in 1982."

Lightfoot transitioned to an administrative role in 1988 when she was named Associate Dean and Registrar. She left Taylor in 1993 to serve the faculties and administrations of neighboring Ivy Tech and Indiana Wesleyan, but returned to Taylor in 2008 as the Dean of Taylor's School of Social Sciences, Education and Business.

"It took me a long time to understand that ambition is not the opposite of humility, because I felt like if I was ambitious, I was denying Christ, who was always the perfect, humble example," she said. "I want to help younger, earlier-in-their-careers women learn that reality. It is one of the things I would love to continue working at after I am retired."

"Looking back, God has been very near," Lightfoot said. "Where I've seen the intervention of God dramatically has been in my own life from moving me place to place. I never expected to have a career in higher education. This wasn't a goal. The fact was that God has just made it so plain. 'Go here now.' There was no choice."





## DR. JESSICA ROUSSELOW-WINQUIST

### Professor of Communication

*Amadeus. The Last Night of Ballyhoo. The Little Foxes. The Children's Hour.* During Jessica Rousselow-Winquist's stellar 49-year career at Taylor University, the criteria for any play she selected for presentation to the Taylor community was simple: it had to have compelling content that led the audience to form their own conclusions about what they had just seen. And if it pushed the envelope a little, that was fine, too. "I think the theatre should help people to feel, of course, because acting is about feeling and communicating feeling and emotion," she said. "But I also think it should enable people to think."

Rousselow-Winquist taught classes that ran the gamut from public speaking to corporate and interpersonal communication. And it was

her strict standards that helped students push themselves to academic achievements they could never have imagined.

"A lot of the letters (from former students) I get back say, 'Thank you so much for *making* me learn how to write,'" she said. "I think when you're here, you don't understand how important writing is going to be in a whole range of careers and jobs. Writing and thinking are really tied together, and writing and thinking and problem-solving and creativity - it's all one big ball."

In addition to books and articles she has written - both individually and collectively with her faculty colleague and husband, Dr. Alan Winquist - Rousselow-Winquist traveled to numerous international locations that included Greece,

Italy, Kenya, China, Vietnam and the United Kingdom, leading study trips and participating in research.

"I think you are called to utilize the gifts that you have in a place where it makes sense for you to be. I'm not sure I fully understand all of the gifts I have been given, but I do know that a strong one is my intellect. I say that with humility," she said. "I don't think I'm the smartest person in the world, but I do believe that I have the intellectual gifts that are needed for a college professor to have an impact on students' lives. And I think I have attempted to utilize that gift maximally, not just in interpersonal relationships with students and the tutorial setting, but I think in classes too."





41

YEARS

## DR. JOE LUND

**Professor of Psychology**

At the end of the 1974 spring semester, Joe Lund and his wife were packing to leave Upland, unsure of what was next. “Maybe I could sell shoes,” Lund said. “Whatever God was going to direct me to.” Then the dean called to extend Lund’s teaching contract. They stopped packing.

“I was not anticipating that we were going to be in Upland forever, and here it is, 43 years later.” Forty-three years since Lund came as a 21-year-old with a Master’s - the same age as many of his students, younger than some - to teach Psychology.

Lund characterized himself as a role player. When he entered a new setting or situation, he looked to fill a need. Raised in a Swedish-American household that emphasized excellence, he was

trained to work hard for the sake of working hard. At Taylor, Lund often played the role of the challenger. On the soccer and softball fields, in the classroom, he pushed students to work harder, press higher, and stretch their limits.

“If people aren’t challenged to set higher standards, then it’s not hard to become complacent,” Lund said. He had a 12-minute standard for his soccer players’ two-mile run and remembers athletes who had great potential stop pushing once they met the standard. “If that’s all you settled for, you may never know what you could have been.”

Raised with a theology that didn’t soften the edges of Christ’s command to be perfect as He was, Lund was taught to hold himself to

a high standard and see infinite potential for improvement. Sometimes, this led to regrets - his daughters’ memories of him shaking his head at their softball games, his own wrestling with self-esteem - but it gave him an outlook on life that pushed him forward.

“To believe that the walk with Christ is just a walk, I think, is a misunderstanding of what Scripture calls us to do,” Lund said. “I prefer the Pauline reference to ‘I beat my body and bring it into submission.’”

Lund doesn’t have set plans for retirement, but he believes he can do more and, in God’s strength, better. “If growth is an indication of success, then I want to be continuing to grow.”





## BEULAH BAKER

Professor of English

"I came here in December, when the students were all gone. In Upland, Indiana, when there weren't very many buildings, and thought, 'Oh no,'" Dr. Beulah Baker remembered. *What had she gotten herself into?*

But when the students returned, she realized, "There were opportunities here. It was a place that had the same kind of vision for learning - for integration of faith and learning ... So I checked out a couple of other places, but this was the one that was right."

Born in Baton Rouge, La., Baker moved with her family several times as a child, giving her the opportunity to see and appreciate cultural differences.

"My parents taught me to see [the unknown] as exciting," she said, "so instead of being fearful of

something, it's, 'Oh, I've never eaten that before! Let's try it.'"

Baker started teaching at Taylor in 1979, and she's been here ever since - but never in a stagnant, immobile way. She led 15 Literary London trips, helped start the Irish Studies Program, and taught in Singapore in the late 80s. She took a sabbatical to teach in Nairobi, Kenya, and taught three summers in Moscow, Russia.

For Baker, literature is a way to step into other people's worlds and experiences. Through every class she's taught, she's sought to introduce students to different ways of thinking and seeing the world.

"Reading a text immerses," she said. "Even Taylor travel groups - we try to get out into the culture, but sometimes there are little bubbles of people

in the same group traveling. You read a novel and you're one character in the middle of that world, that universe."

Stepping into other worlds via literature is not always easy. Sometimes, the perspectives and experiences are so foreign, immersion feels like Cinderella's stepsisters forcing their gargantuan feet into her tiny slipper. But discomfort is part of the process.

As Baker looks forward to retirement, she's not sure what comes next. As an academic who describes helping students tune into the life of the mind as her "meat and potatoes," she feels a need to continue reading, discussing, organizing. She's just not sure what that will look like, yet.





► **HIS DREAM LIVES ON** President Emeritus Eugene B. Habecker, Sinoe County Association of the Americas (SCAA) President Marilyn Morris, and Faculty Emeritus member Charles Kirkpatrick unveil the Samuel Morris statue *Sharing The Word* during dedication ceremonies of the Samuel Morris Residential Guesthouse in Farmerville, Liberia, on May 26. Habecker and his wife Marylou led a team from Taylor University to Sinoe County, the home region of Morris, the legendary Taylor student from the early 1890s. The facility, as well as a planned Samuel Morris Resource and Conference Center, is the result of a partnership between Taylor, Ambassador Enterprises in Fort Wayne, and the SCAA. The trip marked Habecker's last formal act as President.





Sam Morris

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HIS DREAM LIVES ON

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# ALUMNI

# NOTES

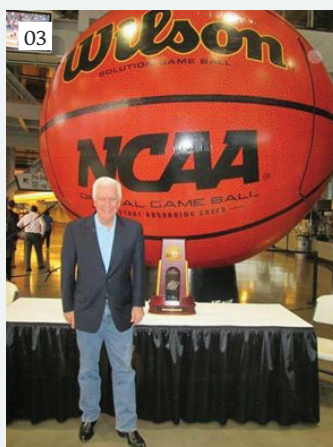


1945

**01 Rev. Gerald Klinefelter** passed away May 5, 2016, at the age of 94. Gerald spent his life in service to the Red Bird Mission and the people of Kentucky and saw God's divine hand at work throughout his life. His family is rejoicing in the fact that his life was very well lived and that he is in the presence of his Lord.

**SUBMITTING ALUMNI NOTES IS SIMPLE...** Visit [taylor.edu/alumninotes](http://taylor.edu/alumninotes) to submit your alumni notes updates and photos. Please remember to upload only photos including alumni and a minimum resolution of 150 dpi or 4 x 6 inches. Notes can also be submitted by email at [magazine@taylor.edu](mailto:magazine@taylor.edu), by phone at (800) 882-3456 ext. 5170, or by mail.





## 1950

**Rev. Dr. Raymond Wilbur** died in December 2015 at the age of 90. After graduating from Taylor, he continued his studies at Boston University, Harvard University, and the University of New Hampshire. He was an able lay poet and kept regular correspondence with the poet laureate, Richard Wilbur (no relation). He read the Bible daily in Hebrew and Greek. While pastor of the York, Maine Congregational Church, Raymond discovered the coded 18th century diaries of the former pastor, Rev. Joseph Moody. He wrote about his experience in his dissertation. Raymond was a gifted scholar who listened with real appreciation to the thoughts and insights of others. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Jean Libby Wilbur.

## 1954

**Rev. Forrest Jackson** passed away on May 25, 2016, at Grace Brethren Village in Englewood, Ohio. He served as pastor in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches

for more than 55 years. As a basketball player for the Taylor Trojans, Forrest was a four-time All-American. His 63 points against Huntington on February 21, 1953, stands today as a single-game scoring record. Additionally, Forrest's 2,053 career points are third on Taylor's all-time scoring list. Forrest was inducted into Taylor's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1973, and continued to be actively involved at Taylor University. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Arlene (Smith)**, three children David (Sandy), Bruce (Brenda), and Melody Gingerich (Galen), as well as 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## 1955

**Walter Wanvig** went to be with the Lord in May 2016 after an unexpected hospitalization and surgery. He was a veteran of the United States Navy, worked for AG Edwards for more than 40 years, and

was an active member of Covenant Life Church of Sarasota, Fla. Walter is survived by his wife of nearly 62 years **Donna (Peck '54)**, his daughters Dawn Carpenter, **Kristin (Wanvig '80) Valdes** (Jorge), and **Stephen '90** (Nicole), as well as several grandchildren. Walter was proud of his Norwegian heritage and loved the Lord. He always looked for opportunities to share his faith in Jesus.

## 1969

**02** Three Taylor alumni couples worked as volunteers at the 2016 Walt Disney World Half and Full Marathons in January. This has become a yearly tradition for **Bob Midwood, Coleen (Myers '70) Midwood, Dan Alley, Vicki (Duke) Alley, Steve Oldham, and Diane Lundquist Oldham.**

**03** **Dave Dean** met and interviewed many coaches and past players during

the Final Four March Madness tournament. He has recently published a CD of his sit-down interview with the legendary UCLA Hall of Fame Coach John Wooden.

**04** Classmates from the class of 1969 met in Lakeland, Fla., for lunch. Left to right: **Lauralee (DeBruyn) Gates, Marilyn (Hay) Habecker, Marcia (Hendrickson) Burden, Diane (Lundquist) Oldham, and Vicki (Duke) Alley.**

**05** These classmates enjoyed their annual gathering in Okeechobee, Fla.: **Dan and Vicki (Duke) Alley, Steve and Diane (Lundquist) Oldham, Dale and Barbara Murphy '63, Bob and Coleen (Myers '70) Midwood, Steve and Jan (Cordin '70) Jeffrey, Bob Diller, Steve and Marcia (Hayden) Headley, and Gary and Judy (Carlsen '66) Jones.**

## 1971

**06** **Rev. Gary Sinclair** and his wife Jackie have moved to Indianapolis to start their own ministry. Gary will also serve part-time with Marketplace Chaplains, an organization that provides chaplain services to over 500 businesses around the country. Gary has published two books in the last two years: *Turn Up Or Turn Around Your Parenting* and *Turn Up Or Turn Around Your Marriage*.

## 1975

**Rodney Shafer** was inducted into the Florida Football Coaches Hall of Fame on January 2. During a 40-year teaching career at high schools in Indiana, Illinois and Florida, Rod coached 23 years at Lake Wales High School in Florida. He was also inducted in the Wabash Valley Football Hall of Fame in Indiana in 2015. Rod and his wife **Sue (Healy '77)** have been married for more than 40 years and they are the



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ON IN THE LIVES OF  
TAYLOR ALUMNI



parents of two children, Ashley and Justin, and grandparents of three. The Shafers' son Justin played baseball for the University of Florida and is now in the Toronto Blue Jays' minor league system. Rod has retired from high school coaching and is now the Head Football Coach at Warner University in Lake Wales.

## 1977

**07 Dr. Jeffrey Spiess** recently received the Josefina B. Magno Distinguished Hospice Physician Award from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM). He recently retired from Hospice of the Western Reserve in Cleveland. The Magno Award is given to a hospice physician who delivers the highest quality services and innovative programs and who demonstrates exemplary dedication to the practice of palliative medicine in a hospice setting.

## 1978

**08 William "Chez" Rusununguko** recently spent seven days in Harare, Zimbabwe, with **John '77** and **Wanda (Smith '76) Kawadza**. He had the opportunity to share his testimony with youth involved in the Kuumba Youth Foundation, an organization that the Kawadzas established to minister to the families and youth of Harare. He also had the opportunity to give the Easter message at the Kawadzas' church, Fresh Water Christian Fellowship Church. During that visit, he met with Taylor alumni including **DrPH Beth A. Tippet Barr '96** and **Elizabeth M. Karonga '83**.

## 1983

**Colonel Charles "CJ" May** is an employee of the United States government, serving as the Maritime Operations Center Training Administrator for the Headquarters of the Commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. CJ retired from the Marine Corps in November 2013 after 30 years of service. He also serves as a vocalist for the Grace Bible Church worship team. His wife Kimiko is a real estate broker. His daughter Naomi is a 1st Lt in the USMC stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and is a 2012 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. CJ's son Charles owns an online urban wear clothing store and has a family with two children, Xavier and Zachariah.

## 1986

**Colonel Stephen Newman** was named the head of the federal public defender's office for the Northern District of Ohio in February 2016. The son of **Chuck (H'99)** and **Irma (H'99) Newman**, Colonel Newman has served in the Marines since graduating from Taylor. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

## 1989

**09 Teresa (Swanson) Meredith** was re-elected in April for her final three-year term as president of the Indiana State Teachers

Association. Teresa's role involves advocating for students in public schools and for individuals who serve those students. The ISTA has 40,000 members statewide in Indiana's public schools. She is married to **Chris '87** and they have four children: **Joshua '14**, Taylor, Justin, and Sarah. You may reach Teresa at tmeredith@ista-in.org.

**10 Stacey Peters** and his wife Becky adopted their 2-year-old son Silas from Ethiopia in November 2015. Silas joins his brother Simeon (age 5, also adopted from Ethiopia in February 2011) and his sister Isabelle (age 8). Becky is a stay-at-home mom and Stacey teaches math, coaches football, and sponsors the FCA club at Plainfield High School in Plainfield, Ind. They are actively involved in their local church, Plainfield Christian Church.

## 1991

**11 Jonathan Andualem Michael "Smiles" Mortensen**, the son of **Michael and Christine (La Rue '92) Mortensen**, went to be with the Lord on May 2, 2016. Jonathan, whom the Mortensens adopted from Ethiopia, had suffered from Batten Disease. During his life, Jonathan's infectious smile, spunk and spirit touched the lives of thousands. Michael serves Taylor as Director of Scholarships and as Director of Fort Wayne Alumni and Friend Relations. Michael and Christine live in Fort Wayne and are parents of five children, including **Ashlyn '17** and **Alli '20**.

## 1992

**12 Sabrina (Munson) Nowling** was recently promoted to Regional Vice President of Marketing at Cornerstone Home Lending Inc., a top 20 national mortgage lender. Sabrina has worked at Cornerstone and its affiliates for the past 16 years in various capacities. She was also recently appointed to the Colorado Mortgage Lenders Association Board of Directors in Denver. Sabrina resides in Fort Collins, Colo., with her husband and 19-year-old daughter.

## 1994

**David Chamberlin** has been named Senior Vice President and Director of Internal Communications for PNC Financial Service Group of Pittsburgh. Before joining PNC, David served as general manager for Edelman Public Relations' Dallas office and previously ran its Shanghai, China, office. He led the firm's industry-leading Data Privacy and Security Group and brings 20 years of broad corporate communications experience from his previous work with JP Morgan Chase, Nortel and MSL Group.

**13 Raquel Prentice** was appointed for long-term missionary service by Avant Ministries International on January 22, 2016. Her goal was to begin studying French in Albertville, France, this fall in order to begin teaching English as a Second Language in Bamako, Mali, in the fall of 2017. She welcomes your contact at rp\_butterfly7@hotmail.com





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13

SERVANT  
LEADERS  
MARKED WITH A  
PASSION



## 1996

**14 Kevin Erickson** and his wife Angela announce the birth of their daughter Lauren Elizabeth. Lauren joins her older sisters Morgan and Kaitlyn. The Ericksons live in the Dallas area where Kevin leads the Management Consulting practice for Credera.

## 1999

**Dr. Jill Graper Hernandez** recently won the Robert B. Papazian International Prize in Ethics for her International Journal of Philosophical Studies article titled, *The Integrity Objection, Reloaded*. She is the author of a monograph, *Gabriel Marcel's Ethics of Hope*, and the editor of *The New Intuitionism*. Her articles have appeared in top journals, including *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *The Journal of Religion*, *Sophia*, and *The International Journal of Philosophy of Religion*. She serves as Interim Associate Dean of the Honors College and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

## 2000

**15** Members of the Class of 2000 reunited with friends from the Class of 2001 during Homecoming 2015. They included **Justin Berger**, **Sara (Stoller) Berger**, **Devon (Trevarrow '01) Flaherty**, **Kevin Flaherty**, **Wes Gaines** and wife Sarah, **Anne (Konkler '01) Gallagher**, **Phil Gallagher**, **Heidi Harbin '01**, **Erin (Johnson '99) Kutnow**, **James Kutnow**, **Ben Miller '02**, **Megan (Shauck '01) Miller**, **Mark Mohrlang** and wife, and **Jayson Palm**, along with their children.

## 2001

**16 Andrés Cabezas** married Heather Hahn on July 26, 2014. The other Taylor University participant in the wedding ceremony was Andrés' father **Jaime Cabezas '71**. Andrés and Heather live and work in Mexico City, Mexico. They can be contacted at andres.cabezas@domador.net.

## 2002

**17 Andrew Broucek** and his wife Jessica welcomed their first child Madelynn Beth on January 30, 2016. The family lives in Ephrata, Pa.

## 2004

**18 Kelsey (Holloway) Rorem** and her husband Tom welcomed their first son Lucas Godwin on December 23, 2015. The Rorems live in Seattle, where Kelsey serves as the Associate Director of Campus Ministries at Seattle Pacific University. Tom is an events manager for a local business and front man of the band Lowlands.

## 2005

**19 David Haller** married Chelsea Barrett on July 18, 2015, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The wedding was officiated by **Chris Chaudoin '04**. Other Taylor alumni in the wedding party included **Dan Haller '07** and **Jenny (DeGeyter) Haller '07**, **Mark Haller**, **Katie Haller '12**, and **Bill Green '04**. The couple lives in St. Petersburg, where Dave is Director of Communications for the Tampa Bay Rays and Chelsea is a graphic designer for Reliant Mission.

## 2006

**Thomas Jackson** has published a book entitled, *Maximus: Based on a True Story*. He resides in Frederick, Md.

**20 Matthew ('06) and Corrie (Walters '12) Voss** welcomed with joy Faith Gabriel Voss on March 3, 2016. The family of three resides in Fort Collins, Colo., where Matt is helping launch a business to combat human trafficking called the Skipping Stone. Corrie is enjoying motherhood and working part-time at Colorado State University.

## 2009

**21 Kara Gearhart** married Jason Zdyb on September 19, 2015, at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. The wedding was officiated by Pastor Rob Barton of Mt. Olive United Methodist Church in Marion, Ind. Kara's parents are **Tom** and **Julie (Maxfield '80) Gearhart '77**. Grandparents are **Rex '53** and **Ruth (Gentile '54) Gearhart**. Many Taylor alumni were in attendance. The couple lives in Lincoln Park, Chicago, Ill.

## 2010

**Drew Baker** began working for envisionit in April 2016 as an Associate Interaction Designer. He and his wife **Emily (Biedry '11)** live in Wheaton, Ill.

## 2011

**22 Kayla Birt** married Chris Flegel in Greencastle, Ind., on October 24, 2015. Kayla and Chris met at a bicycle shop in Pennsylvania. Kayla's Taylor roommates **Katelin Jones** and **Sarah Billman** were members of the wedding party. Also in attendance were **Heather Tyner**, **Katie (Mathers) Velting**, **Kathryn Carlson**, **Mary Horton '10**, and **Anna (Kaihoi) Kramer**. The couple now resides in Greencastle where they both work at DePauw University.

**Elise Laba Martin** of Atlanta passed away March 13, 2016, from injuries she suffered in an auto accident. She is survived by her husband and family.

**Brody** and **Bethany (Beck '12) Rathman**, both former Taylor athletes, recently started a growing online business, B & B Kustom Kennels. Joining their team is **Derek Kinzer '13** who helps with their marketing and website.

**23 James Taylor** married **Brittany Martin** in Bend, Ore., on March 21, 2016. Taylor friends in attendance included **Brian** and **Rachel Wong**, **Luke Wynsma**, **Ben** and **Gina (Dammeyer '10) Butterfield**, and **Josh Wolfe '13**.

## 2012

**24 Nicole Banister** is spending a year working in the High Court of Uganda as part of Pepperdine Law School's partnership with Uganda's Chief Justice. Nicole's fiancé **Jeff Neiman** along with other Taylor alumni visited her in Uganda. Pictured: **Nicole Banister**, **Verity Ramirez**, **Ross Hayden '10**, **Katie Moore**, **Laura Schmucker '11**, and **Jeff Neiman**.

**Steven Deckert** joined the law firm of Deckert & Van Loh, PA, located in Maple Grove, Minn., as an associate attorney. Steven received his JD from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2015.

**Tyler and Anna (Fulton) Sahly** welcomed their first child Rowan Courage Sahly into the world March 9, 2016.



**Tim Davis** and **Ryan Maloney '13** have teamed with friends to start a nonprofit theatre company in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. To learn more, please visit their website: [www.newcityplayers.org](http://www.newcityplayers.org).

**Alaina Vink** married David Ekdorn in April 2016. The couple resides in Holland, Mich.

## 2013

**25 Kristen Prebble** recently married James Hamrick. **Emily Day** was part of the bridal party.

**26 Brittany Jacob** married Andrew Ballinger June 6, 2015, at the Princeton University Chapel in central New Jersey. Taylor alumna **Ruthie Totheroh** served as Maid of Honor. Also participating in the ceremony was Vice President of Business Administration **Ron Sutherland '82**. Ron was accompanied by his wife **Judy Sutherland '82**. Brittany's brother **Brandon Jacob '09** and sister-in law **Laura McGrath '09**, were also included in the ceremony. Brittany and Andrew met at Princeton Community Church.

**27 Natalie Cullen** married Tyler Laidig in October 2015 in Denver, Colo. The couple resides in Denver.

## 2014

**28 Nate Nupanga** and **Shayna Wood** were married July 25, 2015, in Marion, Ind. The wedding party was filled with Taylor alumni including **Ashley Fouch**, **Kelsey Bryant**, **Linden Daiss**, **Amy Skerratt**, **Erin (Guarneri '13) McGaughey**, **Eli Nupanga**, and **Jimmy VanderGalen**. The couple lives in Wheaton, Ill.

**29 Nate Vogel** and **Emma Cook** were married October 24, 2015. The wedding was attended

by Taylor alumni, and their wedding party included **Sarah Cook '15**, **Rachel Cook '16**, **Callie Willoughby '15**, **Meredith Touby '16**, **Dan Aust**, and **Lane Gramling**.

**30 Chelsea Young** has been accepted into the Vlerick Business School in Brussels, Belgium, where she is earning a Master's degree in General Management. She lives in Brussels.

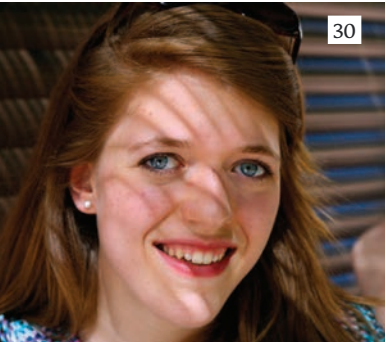
## 2015

**31 Ryan Frantz** and **Meghan Cousins** were married August 15, 2015. Ryan graduated with a degree in Biblical Studies and is pursuing his Master's of Divinity at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Meghan graduated with a degree in Accounting and Finance and is currently working as a staff accountant for *Walk in the Word* at Harvest Bible Chapel. The couple resides in Schaumburg, Ill. Taylor alumni in the wedding party included **TJ Lopez**, **Joel Biere**, **Matt Fox '14**, **Kate (Krause '14) Schuman**, **Ashlyn DeHoogh '14**, **Montanna Ashline '14**, and **Megan Frantz**.

**32 Will Severns** and **Lauren Pfeifer** were married January 30, 2016, in Indianapolis. The wedding party included **Courtney Selle '16**, **Madison Thompson '16**, **Danica Johnson '16**, **Reagan Lintner '17**, **Gabby Edwards '17**, **Alex Schmucker**, **Nate Scheibe**, **Scott Collins**, and **Drew Severns '08**. The wedding was officiated by **Matthew Severns '02**. The couple resides in Marion, Ind.



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# SURPRISED BY COMMUNION

2016 COMMENCEMENT  
SENIOR CLASS ADDRESS

BY VERONICA TOTH '16

When I came to Taylor as an 18-year-old, I was afraid of taking communion. I had heard 1 Corinthians 11:27 many times - "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord" - and my own fear of being unworthy and of not belonging weighed me down. When the crackers and grape juice were passed around, I hung back. The body and blood seemed like a luxury I did not have enough faith or goodness to partake in.

When we arrived as freshmen at Taylor, we found ourselves thrust into many communions, most of them figurative. Some, like Freshman Orientation, were explicitly designed to help us make friends. Although these activities were not without their benefits - I think that O Group improved my ability to untangle a human knot - my best Taylor experiences were the ones in which communion with others snuck up behind me and caught me by surprise.

I never really started out seeking the mutually giving, communal relationship I've found during my time here - in fact, it was kind of the opposite. For many of you, perhaps stumbling upon personal connection worked in a similar way. You found a wing or an activity or a major and began, tentatively, to participate. At first, this thing that you were doing felt fairly insignificant. You were only planning an open house or perfecting

your free throw or taking a class. But if you were lucky enough, you were drawn into the beauty of your thing, whatever it was - residence life, academia, sports, TSO, debate, or a hundred other small, wonderful networks under the Taylor umbrella.

**"WE LEARNED WHAT  
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DEEPLY..."**

And if you were luckier still, this newfound passion and curiosity began to bleed through into every facet of your life. You began to seek an integrity of belief, one that combined your personal and spiritual and academic lives into a seamless, whole person. Almost magically - perhaps we could say providentially - others who sought that same integrity appeared and started to travel alongside you. What had seemed like an insignificant, solitary endeavor took on a depth and interconnectedness that we could not have predicted, and cannot fully describe. We learned what

it is like to have the courage to speak and the humility to listen; we began to see others as they were and tried to love them more deeply; we broke and realized our brokenness, received grace and gave it. Before I experienced this depth of relationship, the phrase "body of Christ" veered dangerously close to cliché for me. But once I had tasted the communion of learning with others, I was a little closer to understanding.

Halfway through my time at Taylor, I realized that my fear of partaking in the literal bread and cup of communion had dissipated, replaced by a sense of peace and belonging. I suspect the togetherness I experienced at this university - with students and faculty, both in and out of class - had a great deal to do with the healing of this fear.

Bodies are not meant to be broken, and this is why it hurts for us to leave Taylor. But, no matter the new places we go or vocations we pursue, we will bring with us the muscle memory of creating and remaining in relationship. I believe that Taylor is only the beginning of a long togetherness with each other and with God.

I am so grateful that all of us, for these short and beautiful years, have come together to learn how to take communion.

**VERONICA TOTH IS FROM MEDINA, OHIO, AND  
GRADUATED WITH A DEGREE IN ENGLISH.**

# LIVING IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Have you ever felt and believed you were dead center in the heart of the Lord's will for your life? Sherry and I feel that way right now, at this very moment in time, as we contemplate this next chapter of our lives. We are as certain as we have ever been that God has led us to this place - step by step, prayer by prayer, decision by decision. As a result, we stand here today with an incredible sense of confidence that we are in the heart of the Lord's will for our lives.

A few days ago, I was spending some time with one of my good friends who happens to be the president of a fairly large, well-regarded, secular, private, liberal arts university. I mentioned to him that I felt I was in the crosshairs of God's will for my life in taking on this new challenge at Taylor. He looked up at me and said, "Crosshairs? That sounds like you're in the sights of a rifle; not sure I would like that!"

We laughed and that was the end of that. But as I drove home that afternoon, I reflected on his comment. In many ways, Sherry and I know that we have accepted a challenge that demands skills and experience far greater than those we possess. We also know that we have taken up this challenge at a time when higher education, in particular Christian higher education, is under significant stress. So, maybe my friend's quip about the "cross hairs of a gun" is more apt than one would wish!

In such an environment, it is easy to feel inadequate to the task, to question judgment, and to doubt God's wisdom in leading us to Upland. We choose, however, not to do that. Rather, we claim God's promise in Proverbs 3:6: "Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you the path to take."

As for the challenges, they are great, no doubt about it. Taylor must remain firmly committed to the integration of our vital, deep, abiding, orthodox Christian faith into an academic program second to none. In addition, Taylor must endeavor to become self-sufficient, strengthen its student enrollment and diversity, grow its scholarship endowment, increase its national visibility, enhance the lives of its people to enable them to flourish, improve its already exceptional academic programs, compete with the best in higher education, recruit the finest and the brightest Christian students, and grow sufficient resources to perpetuate the unique Taylor educational experience for generations to come.

Yes, the challenges are great. No, they are enormous! But our God has demonstrated time and again, throughout history, that He is greater! (1 John 4:4)

As we immerse ourselves in this new challenge, we believe God will quicken the hearts of many - indeed many of you reading these

words - to join us in impacting the lives of young Christian students at Taylor who have the greatest potential for impacting the world for Christ. We believe there is no ministry of greater value or significance than the one that takes place within Taylor's borders. Educating the world's most gifted Christian young adults, especially during the most formative four years of their lives and at a time in history when they are most needed, isn't just a privilege but, arguably, an obligation for any seriously-minded Christian.

Will you join Sherry and me? Will you join us in the crosshairs of God's will? Will you link your arms with ours in the task of impacting this world for Christ by educating this world's most gifted young Christ followers? They will change the world!

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and support. With God's help, we look forward to meeting the challenge with you.

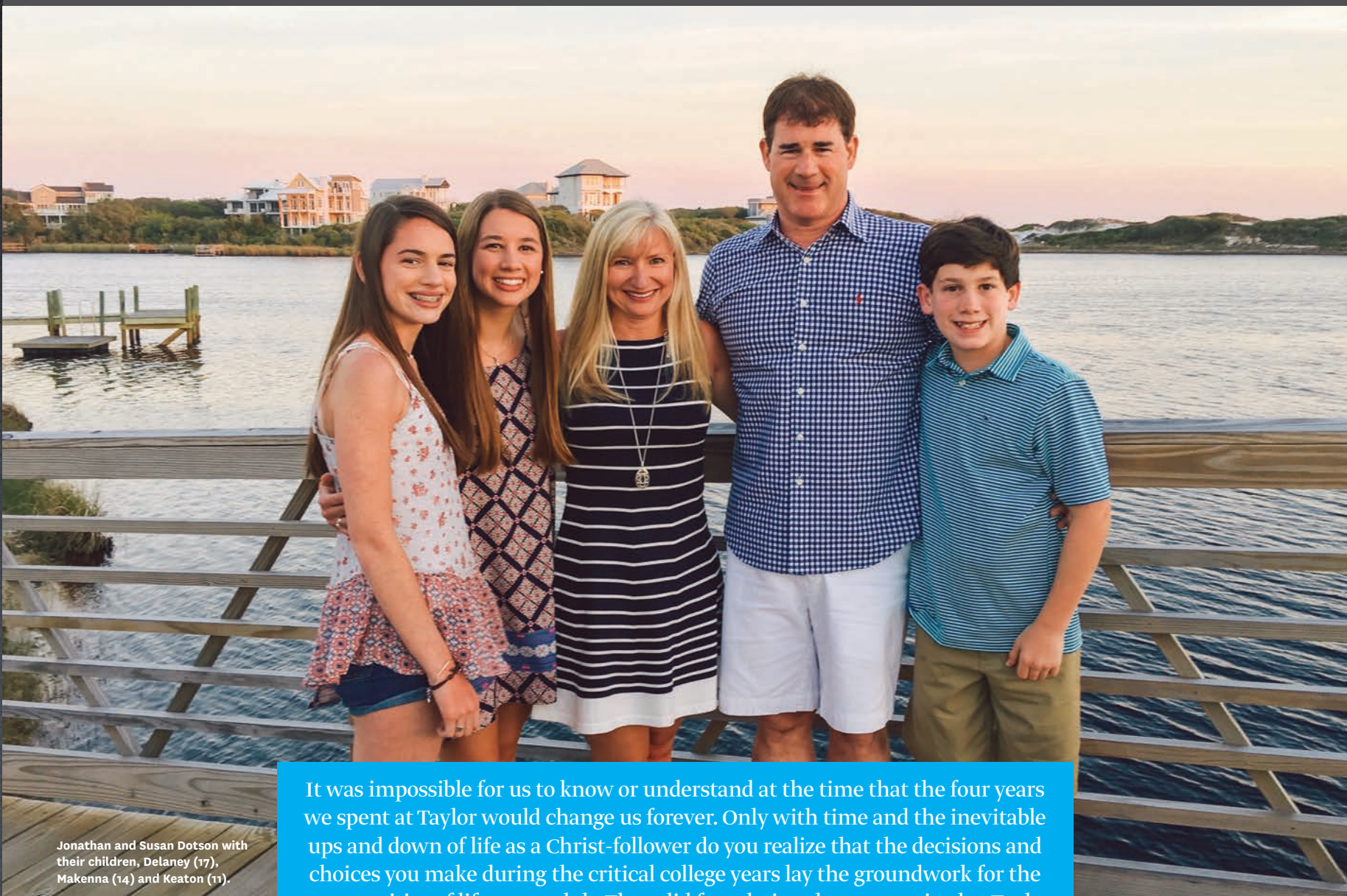


Lowell



*Paul Lowell Haines '75  
President of Taylor University*





Jonathan and Susan Dotson with their children, Delaney (17), Makenna (14) and Keaton (11).

It was impossible for us to know or understand at the time that the four years we spent at Taylor would change us forever. Only with time and the inevitable ups and down of life as a Christ-follower do you realize that the decisions and choices you make during the critical college years lay the groundwork for the opportunities of life as an adult. The solid foundation that we received at Taylor continues to this day to influence our family, our marriage, our friendships, the ministries we are involved with and our professional life. It is with deep gratitude for how God so generously used Taylor and its intentional discipleship community that we feel called to invest each year in the supporting scholarships for current students through the Taylor Scholarship Fund and also to include Taylor in our estate planning.

**Jonathan and Susan Dotson '92**



To discuss giving to Taylor through your estate plan, contact Mike Falder '94, Executive Director of Development, at [mcfalder@taylor.edu](mailto:mcfalder@taylor.edu). Read more online at [www.taylor.edu/giftplans](http://www.taylor.edu/giftplans).

To make a gift to the Taylor Scholarship Fund, go to [www.taylor.edu/giving](http://www.taylor.edu/giving). Or, contact Andre Payne '08, Director of the Taylor Scholarship Fund, at [andre\\_payne@taylor.edu](mailto:andre_payne@taylor.edu).





## HOPE

Children at St. Paul's School in Greenville, Liberia, were excited to welcome visitors from Taylor University in May. Learn more on P.28.